342 In constructing a house, not a single nail, wooden plug,
or peg is used, but the entire structure of stakes and wickerwork
is usually tied firmly together with fresh bast from the bark of a
[288] fig tree or with spliced fibres of banana trunks or papyrus stalks.
The height of the huts varies between two and four meters (in
Ruanda as much as eight meters); the diameter is between
three and six meters.

In Urundi I did not see residential huts of any other shape,
but, according to Baumann, there are residential huts with a
cylindrical bamboo substructure on the upper Kagera (No. 4,
[343] p. 218). In Urundi I have seen these used only as storage huts
in the mountains where bamboo grows.

As has already been mentioned above, each family has
its own hut, and if there are several wives, each wife has her
own hut. There are no special houses for bachelors, unmarried
women, strangers, communal gatherings, or for specific societies.
However, there are half-open roughly constructed work huts for
343 blacksmiths and smaller well-built huts for young cattle
(uruhongore) and for the storage of field crops (ivikeka). The
[251] storage huts are shaped like baskets, tapering toward the bottom,
and are twice a person's height. They are covered with a flat,
conical straw roof which is usually removable (see p. 56). All
this stands on a low grate of wooden poles to protect the hut
346 yet very close to it, there usually stand a few small spirit huts
778 (ikigabiro), not more than a meter high, made of straw and
[782] reeds. In these the spirits are offered meat, milk, or produce
of the soil in pieces of broken pots or pumpkin shells (see pp.
[776] 121, 135, and Plate 18a). Another miniature hut (ikitabo) is
dedicated to the chief god, Riangombe or Kiranga. One sees
many more of these huts in Urundi, Uha, and Ussumbwa than
in Ruanda.

364 The Barundi, and above all, the Bahutu, are far from
356 exemplifying the great cleanliness which usually prevails in
342 the vicinity of the huts in Ruanda; [23] they throw garbage
next to the hut and defecate in the banana grove surrounding
● [514] the huts, but the coprophagous dogs and vultures, wherever
they exist, make it their business to remove the worst.

251 being stored in an empty hut. This must have been a temporary arrangement to counter the danger of termites.

In Ruanda some of the supplies are kept in the hut. Here, however, they do not use banana leaves but baskets sealed with cow dung. The baskets hold up to 50 kilograms.

In northern and western Ruanda there are often pits in the immediate neighborhood of the huts, where bananas are kept to ripen and fresh beer is kept until it ferments. The pits are heated before the bananas are stored there. To do this the smoke from the adjacent fire is directed into the pit. Dr. Kandt (1) is

1. Kandt, R., Caput Nili (Berlin, 1904), p. 390.

undoubtedly referring to these pits when he says that the cellars of the Banyabungu are: "...caves in the shape of butter molds, the walls of which are supported by bent branches and hoops. The hoops starting at the bottom form diminishing concentric circles up to the opening which is wide enough for a man to enter."

[514] Privies seem to be completely unknown in Ruanda.

342 352 [206] Interior of the Hut. The interiors of the huts in Kissaka differ from those in Kiziba in that there are no fixed, woven partitions. When you enter the hut, you seem to be confronted by a finely woven wall, but on closer observation this turns out to be a row of uprights. Stiff rectangular mats are wedged in between them and bent outward. The mats are woven somewhat like the baskets; they are 2 meters long and 40 centimeters wide and usually sealed with cow dung. This wall separates the anteroom (umuriango) from the hearth section. On the left side is an opening which forms a narrow entrance to the interior of the hut. The position of this opening seems to be reminiscent of the arrangement in the Bakondjo huts. However, this opening can also be directly opposite the entrance, as is generally the case among the Batutsi.

352 Along the wall of the hearth section, usually to one side of the entrance, is the bench for the milk vessels. This is about 40 centimeters wide, 40 centimeters high, and up to 2 meters long